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INCORPORATED 1883

Communicated.

TAOS, N. M., Oct. 21, 1900.

McCook TRIBUNE, McCook, Neb.  
DEAR EDITOR: Would you like to  
hear from Nebraska girls in New Mex-  
ico? There are five of us here, Mae,  
Claire, Gracie, Estelle and myself—Es-  
telle, though, is a big girl and our music  
teacher.

We live in a pretty little valley right  
at the foot of the Taos mountains, with  
the clear, pure waters of the Rio Pueblo  
almost at our very door. It is prettier  
here than any place I ever saw in Ne-  
braska, still I like Nebraska best.

You may think because New Mexico  
is only a territory and has no vote for  
president, that we have no politics, but  
I just want you to know that we girls  
shout as loudly for McKinley as we did  
four years ago in Nebraska, even louder,  
for we are bigger now and have stronger  
voices. And I tell you it's simply grand  
to hear the assuring answer echoed from  
the mountain sides, "McKinley—Kinley—  
Kinley—Kinley," every peak and crag  
speaking for McKinley and Roosevelt.  
My brother says that these old mountains  
stand solid for the administration, the  
Philippine war and all, and I am sure  
they wouldn't dare to do anything else  
with so many rough-rider boys and girls  
climbing over them.

There are lots of real rough-rider boys  
—Teddy's boys, you know—in New  
Mexico, and I just wish you could see  
how they adore Colonel Roosevelt.  
They say Teddy stood by them at San  
Juan Hill and they will stand by him  
everywhere and forever. I tell you it  
makes me ashamed for our Nebraska  
colonel who returned home and let his  
poor boys go on to Cuba alone. I know  
Nebraska honored him, four years ago,  
with the vote of the state for president,  
but my sister, (she's a mission teacher  
and knows more than I) says Nebraska,  
this time, is going to honor the state in-  
stead, by giving her eight electoral  
votes to McKinley and the rough-rider  
colonel. Won't I be proud of our state  
after election?

I wrote a little parody, the other day,  
that we girls like to sing just now. I  
think the Republican boys and girls in  
McCook may like it too. It's lots of fun  
to sing it, but there is something very  
peculiar about the tune or metre. Mc-  
Kinley girls have no trouble with it at  
all, but there are two real nice Bryan  
girls here that we are trying to teach to  
sing it. They get along all right with  
the first part, but on the last line they  
choke and have an awful time. We  
have to throw water in their faces—to  
cool them off.

I enclose the parody. It's very short,  
but tells the story. Your friend,  
AGNES LOUISE.

### THE TWO COLONELS.

[Tune—"Mary Had a Little Lamb."  
"What makes the boys love Teddy so,  
Teddy so, Teddy so?  
What makes the boys love Teddy so?  
The people, they all cry.  
"Why Teddy loves us boys, you know,  
Us boys, you know, us boys, you know.  
Why Teddy loves us boys, you know,  
The boys themselves reply.  
"Why can't the boys love Bryan so,  
Bryan so, Bryan so?  
Why can't the boys love Bryan so?"  
The Demo-Pops all ask.  
O! Bryan loves himself, you know,  
Himself, you know, himself, you know.  
O! Bryan loves himself, you know,  
And wears—a wide-mouth mask.

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# LANG SCORES POYNTER.

Says He is Helpless to Resist  
the Demands of Politicians.

Statements Concerning the Poynter Ad-  
ministration That Are of Keen In-  
terest to Tax Payers.

Omaha, Oct. 22.—Dr. B. F. Lang,  
who has just retired from the super-  
intendency of the Home for the Feeble  
Minded Youth at Beatrice, is among  
those of the fusion faith who openly  
declare that Poynter is unfit for gov-  
ernor and should be defeated. Speaking  
on this subject yesterday Dr. Lang  
said:

"From the very commencement  
Governor Poynter has been dominated  
by the politicians. They have dic-  
tated many of his appointments to  
places in the various state institutions  
and the result is that there is scarcely  
an institution that has not suffered  
more or less from this source. Out at  
Beatrice, a man who had been booked  
for an ordinary position, such as deputy  
oil inspector, or the like, was trans-  
ferred to the institution as book-  
keeper and steward without any con-  
sideration as to his qualifications.

"The different institutions today are  
supplied with that class of employes,  
in some instances three or four of one  
family are holding down positions  
without any qualification whatsoever.  
There are any number of people hold-  
ing positions in the state institutions  
who are notoriously unfit for pub-  
lic duty. The fault is not with the  
superintendents of these institutions,  
but with Governor Poynter, who has  
permitted ring leaders of the fusion  
party to dictate to him who should be  
appointed. No better example can be  
cited of the imposition of obliging the  
superintendent to accept employes who  
are incompetent and unfit than that  
of a Mrs. Thomas, mother of Oil In-  
spector Sprecher, who is now holding  
the position of matron at the Beatrice  
institution. I make this statement  
without any qualification whatsoever. There  
are no merit either physically or mentally  
to recommend her to such a position.  
I refer to this case simply to show to  
what extent Governor Poynter has  
abused the appointive power. There  
are many other cases like it. Mrs.  
Thomas, ever since she has been mat-  
ron, has refused to perform the duties  
incident to the position and has per-  
sisted in drawing her salary from the  
state without rendering corresponding  
service. She has kept her daughter with  
her at the state's expense ever since  
has been at Beatrice. Indeed, it seems  
to be quite the common thing since  
Governor Poynter assumed office for  
his appointees to gather their relatives  
around them and feed and shelter  
them at the state's expense. I know  
of one of his appointees at Beatrice  
who lived at the state institution with  
a family of six, all of whom were pro-  
vided with bed and board at the ex-  
pense of the tax payers. All this  
comes from the weakness of Governor  
Poynter. He lacks the courage to  
stand out against the unreasonable de-  
mand of the politicians and their pol-  
itical friends. The terrorizing influ-  
ence of these political pie-hunters  
seem to have originated more among  
the Democratic end of the fusion party  
than any other. In fact, many inter-  
esting letters may be found among  
the governor's correspondence showing  
his weakness in being unable to with-  
stand the political pressure brought to  
bear upon him, an example of which is  
a letter from the Democratic chairman  
of York county, who, in asking recog-  
nition, stated that he had been able in  
the past to turn down many of the  
fusion leaders, among them the Hon.  
Edward Bates, former district judge,  
and others of that political faith, and  
he was ready now to lay Dr. Lang on  
the shelf and even his excellency, if  
it need be, to have the recognition he  
asked. The letter had the desired ef-  
fect, obliging the governor to make  
way for one of the employes who had  
been discharged for disloyalty and in-  
competency, the same being a brother  
of the York county man. Another ex-  
ample of the hold up in York county is  
that of the Cochran family who have  
been nursed at public expense for sev-  
eral years and who still use their in-  
fluence to enforce recognition. Out-  
side of this family the Populists today  
in York county are utterly ignored."

"There is no reason to hope for any  
improvement or change in conditions  
under Governor Poynter. I know  
whereof I speak when I say that at  
this very time, in his efforts to obtain  
support, he is peddling out promises  
of appointment indiscriminately and  
he will either have to violate his word  
or keep faith at the cost of crippling  
and impairing the service more than  
ever. It is certainly a sad condition  
of affairs that the unfortunate people  
of the state should be exposed to the  
ignorance, blunders and cruelty of in-  
competent employes. And it is also  
unfortunate that the tax payers have  
no legal way of protecting their rights  
against ravages and spoliation except  
through the instrumentality of the  
ballot box.

"I believe that no one factor has had  
more to do with disorganizing the man-  
agement of institution work than the  
disregard the governor has shown for  
his word and promises to those seek-  
ing employment. There have been  
many changes in the institutions made  
for no other reason than to satisfy  
some politician with a pull or to keep  
some campaign pledge. At Beatrice  
there was absolutely no occasion for

interference by the governor, though  
the past year at that institution has  
been one of turmoil, strife and disorder.  
The cause of it all was to fulfill a cam-  
paign promise, no matter at what sac-  
rifice. Governor Poynter had on more  
than one occasion expressed confidence  
and satisfaction in and with the man-  
agement of the Beatrice institution, so  
there could have been absolutely no  
reason for making a change other than  
to discharge a campaign pledge or pla-  
cate certain politicians who were loud-  
ly demanding recognition.

"The affairs at the Beatrice institu-  
tion are very much unsettled. Only a  
few days ago one of the children from  
Douglas county was taken away be-  
cause its parents believed that it could  
not be cared for properly with the  
change and consequent inexperience of  
new employes. The parents of another  
child from Dakota county visited the  
institution a few days ago and found  
their child in such a condition that  
they were constrained by parental im-  
pulse to take it away.

"The people of Nebraska can not af-  
ford to let such disgraceful conditions  
continue. It is a crying shame that  
helpless and defenseless people should  
be made to suffer simply that the de-  
mands of politicians may be fulfilled.  
It certainly presents a spectacle to the  
unbiased voter which should move  
him to register an emphatic protest.  
I have no concern in the matter other  
than for the public good when I say  
that Governor Poynter should be de-  
feated. In the past he has been unable  
to break away from the political wire-  
pullers and there is no reason to expect  
anything different should he be re-  
elected. In many of the institutions  
at this very time the employes are  
wondering what the future has in  
store for them and are devoting more  
time to their political cares than to  
their official duty.

"The custom of levying an assess-  
ment on officials and employes of these  
various institutions has become quite  
general under the Poynter adminis-  
tration, and it is needless to say that  
it has done much to take the authority  
out of the hands of the Governor and  
place it in the hands of the politicians,  
thus greatly demoralizing the service.  
After an employe has been compelled  
to divide up his salary with the politi-  
cians and having knowledge that the gov-  
ernor, who appointed him to his position,  
knows that that division of salary  
was made, he feels as if he is under no  
further obligations and is at liberty to  
perform his duties as he sees fit. This  
has taken the authority to main-  
tain discipline and keep things in their  
proper working order out of the hands  
of the superintendent, and the result  
is that each employe is authority unto  
himself. Nothing but demoralization  
has, or ever can, result from such con-  
ditions.

"I am thoroughly familiar with con-  
ditions as they obtain in nearly all the  
institutions of the state and I say,  
without fear of contradiction, that  
there never has been a time when the  
public service was more severely cri-  
pled than at present, and there never  
has been a governor who has shown  
less respect for the public welfare  
than the present incumbent.

"Certainly under such condition  
of affairs no progress can be made  
either in improving the conditions of the in-  
mates of these institutions, reducing  
expenses, or in perfecting the public  
service. I think the figures will bear  
me out when I say that Governor  
Poynter's administration has been a  
very expensive one to the tax payers.  
Properly managed, the institutions  
could be maintained at much less cost  
and the benefits could be made much  
greater. It is folly to expect that you  
can use positions in these institutions,  
from superintendent down, as legal tender  
for the payment of political debts with-  
out incurring much additional ex-  
pense and at the same time destroy-  
ing efficiency.

"I base my statement on what I  
know of my own personal knowledge  
while superintendent at Beatrice  
when I say that there has been no  
corruption practiced under the present  
state administration. I remember at  
one time that a large amount of gro-  
ceries and provisions were shipped to  
the institution at Beatrice from Lincoln  
without ever having been ordered by  
any one in authority. The first I knew  
that such a shipment had been made  
was when I received notice from the  
railroad company that there was a  
consignment of goods for the institute  
at the depot. I had placed no such  
order, but upon investigating I found  
that the shipment was instigated by  
the governor's agents. The goods re-  
mained at the station several weeks  
and there was considerable waste  
from destruction by rats and exposure  
to the weather. When notified by the  
agent that a large amount of goods  
had been shipped there, I had no  
knowledge concerning where the goods  
came from and was inclined to reject  
them, but after some correspondence  
the steward was requested by certain  
members of the state board to accept  
the same and we complied with their  
request. Much of the supplies was  
of such poor quality that we were  
obliged to return considerable an un-  
fit for use.

"After considering these facts one  
can easily understand why there is a  
large deficiency in public funds at this  
time variously estimated at from \$90,-  
000 to \$100,000. Large as this amount  
is, it will surprise no one who has been  
in a position to know just how Gov-  
ernor Poynter and other state officials  
transacted the public business. The in-  
terests of the tax payers have been  
preyed upon, the state institutions  
have been preyed upon and the ap-  
pointees have been preyed upon, all  
in order that the ring leaders may  
live in luxury and prolong their hold  
upon the state government."

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tors failed it soon removed the pain in my  
chest and I can now sleep soundly, some-  
thing I can scarcely remember doing before.  
I feel like scouring its praises throughout the  
universe." Dr. King's New Discovery is  
guaranteed to cure all troubles of the throat,  
chest or lungs. Price 50c. and \$1. Trial  
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put up or shut up with them.

You little knew when first we met  
That some day you would be  
The lucky fellow I'd choose to let  
Pay for my Rocky Mountain Tea.  
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Solitude is better than company—when the  
company is not congenial.